

ISICS Technology Committee Statement to Update the ISICS ICS-217A form

The ISICS Technology Committee has been in the process of reviewing frequencies listed in the current ISICSB ICS-217A.

The ISICSB ICS217A form is a PROCEDURE that follows the ISICSMC12-B policy adopted in the year 2107 and put into effect January 1, 2018.

The ISICS ICS217A Procedure was created so that during future reviews, the ISICS Technology Committee could make changes as necessary without the approval of the ISICS Board.

Currently, the Technology Committee is reviewing VLAW31(155.475MHz) and its use of CTCSS tone 156.7 on the receive frequency. The most current version of the NIFOG handbook does not require a CTCSS tone on the receive frequency, but only recommends its use.

Recent survey information gathered in the State of Iowa shows that some agencies using VLAW31 would be better served by removing CTCSS tone 156.7 from the receive frequency.

Although this would require some agencies to reprogram radios, it may not have as big an impact for those users. If all users of the frequency are transmitting CTCSS tone 156.7, then regardless as to whether the other agency or user has the tone on their receiver, they will still receive the radio traffic.

The Technology Committee is aware that this may cause some concern for the agencies, but believes that the benefit outweighs any negative impact.

In addition, the Technology Committee is researching the potential for adding ISICS P-25 LMR system Talk groups to the ISICS ICS-217A form as well as the 700MHz Air to Ground Channels.

Adding Talk Groups to the ISICS ICS217A form is still in discussions and should be discussed by the Board and its associated Committees. No action will be taken until then.

And the 700MHz Air to Ground channels Policy is currently in a 60 day comment period and has not been adopted. Should that be adopted, then those frequencies would be placed into the ISICS ICS-217A form.

Knowing the time that this would take, the Technology Committee would update the ISICS ICS-217A form with all the appropriate information in November of 2020.

For more information on the State of Iowa survey, see SWIC Maiers and the current NIFOG information go to

<https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/NIFOG%20Ver%201.6.1A.pdf>

